Indian image in Chinese media

†1079. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due attention of Government has been drawn towards the news reports published in the Chinese official print media in which it has been expressed that India is a hostile and underdeveloped country;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any initiative to seek clarification from Government of China on the above mentioned news reports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Change in American foreign policy

†1080. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain changes have taken place in the American foreign policy in the recent time and now USA also acknowledge Pakistan as central place of terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) According to the Annual Threat Assessment Report delivered by the US Director of National Intelligence, John Negroponte to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on 11 January 2007:

"Al-Qaida is the terrorist organization that poses the greatest threat to US interests, including to the Homeland..... And they continue to maintain active connections and relationships that radiate outward from their leaders' secure hideout in Pakistan to affiliates throughout the Middle East, Northern Africa, and Europe....Many of our most important interests intersect in Pakistan, where the Taliban and Al-Qaida maintain critical sanctuaries.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As I noted earlier, Pakistan is our partner in the war on terror and has captured several Al-Qaida leaders. However, it is also a major source of Islamic extremism."

(c) The Government of India has an ongoing dialogue with the U.S. on counter-terrorism.

Time taken for extradition matters

1081. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the average time that Consular Passport and Visa (CPV) Division of External Affairs Ministry takes to react to request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding extradition matters;

(b) whether it is a fact that the average delay is about eight months to the requests from Andhra Pradesh Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the High Commission of India in Singapore also delays extradition requests once it reaches it;

(d) the details of such extradition matters pending in Delhi and Singapore; and

(e) the steps proposed to expedite all such actions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Once a request for extradition is recived from a State Government, the matter is considered in the Ministry in consultation with its Legal & Treaties Division. The requests are examined in terms of standard requirements for making a request to a foreign country to secure the presence of a fugitive for trial. If the documents submitted are as per requirements of the State to be requested, the request is promptly submitted to the country concerned. This procedure is applicable to requests received from the State of Andhra Pradesh also.

(b) to (d) No.

(e) Deos not arise.